IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing ceramic hollow fibers from nanoscale powders, the method comprising:

manufacturing a ceramic mass by transforming a nanoscale metal oxide, carbide, nitride or sulfide powder with an oxycarboxylic acid, compounded to the ceramic mass with at least one solvent and at least one polymeric binder, the metal axial, carbide, nitride, or sulfide powder having a particle size of between 1 and 300 nm;

extruding or spinning the ceramic mass to hollow fiber blanks; and

sintering the blanks.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1 wherein the ceramic mass has a solids content of at least 20 vol%.

3. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1wherein the nanoscale powder is aluminum oxide, zirconium oxide, yttrium stabilized zirconium oxide, titanium oxide, silicon carbide, tungsten carbide and/or silicon nitride.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1wherein the oxycarboxylic acid is ~~preferably~~ selected from a group consisting of trioxadecanoic acid ~~or~~ and dioctaheptanoic acid.

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1wherein the solvent is selected from a group consisting of water//,// ~~and or~~ ethyleneglycol, propyleneglycol, diethyleneglycolmonoethylether, diethyleneglycolmonobutylether, ~~especially~~ and a mixture of ethyleneglycol and diethyleneglycolmonobutylether.

6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1wherein as polymer binder, a cellulose, methylcellulose, ethylcellulose, polyvinylalcohol, ambergum, a polyacrylate and/or polymethacrylate is utilized.

7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1wherein as polymeric binder a at least an acrylate and/or methacrylate is utilized, which is polymerized after the shaping by using a radical starter.

8. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1wherein an external diameter of the ceramic hollow fibers is < 500 µm.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1wherein ~~a extrusion mass~~before extruding the ceramic mass is placed in a special container or in a pressure vessel of a spinning device and conveyed through the spinning device between room temperature and 300 °C.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1wherein the hollow fibers are be sintered to densities of > 97 % of the theoretical density.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1wherein porous hollow fibers are manufactured having a pore size, dependent on the sintering conditions (temperature, pressure, time, atmosphere) ~~and~~, of between 0.5 nm and 1000 nm.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11further comprising adding porous hollow fibers active carbon to the ceramic mass in an amount from 5 to 20 wt% as a template.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for manufacturing ceramic hollow fibers from nanoscale powders the fibers having an external diameter of < 500 µm and contain a reaction product from a nanoscale metal oxide, carbide, nitride or sulfide powder, with an oxycarboxylic acid and at least one polymeric binder, the method comprising:

manufacturing a ceramic mass by transforming the nanoscale metal oxide carbide, nitride or sulfide powder, with the oxycarboxylic acid, compounded to the ceramic mass with at least one solvent and at least one polymeric binder;

extruding or spinning the ceramic mass to hollow fiber blanks; and

sinitering the blanks.

14. (Withdrawn)

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising ~~using~~ forming the ceramic hollow fibers ~~for the manufacture of~~into a web ~~that retains shape when sintered~~shape before sintering, said web retaining shape after sintering.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 further comprising ~~using~~ forming the ceramic hollow fibers ~~for metal, polymer and ceramic~~into one of a group consisting of matrix reinforcements//,// for artificial organs, ~~for~~ components in microsystems for optical waveguides, ~~for~~ ceramic membranes//,// for the solid electrolyte in fuel cells (SOFC), ~~for~~ or tissue engineering and ~~for the manufacture of extremely~~ light weight ceramic parts for temperature stressed components ~~like~~ such as heat shields and brake systems, before sintering.

17. (Withdrawn)

18. (Withdrawn)